

July 26, 2006

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**WASHINGTON, DC**- U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon joined the Democratic Caucus of the United States House of Representatives in unanimously passing a resolution calling for a Time for National Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

**"Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were the worst natural disasters in our nation's history, killing thousands and forcing millions more from their homes,"** said Melancon. **"As we approach the one-year anniversary of these devastating hurricanes, I urge all Americans to join in prayer and remembrance for the victims of the storms."**

The resolution is as follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2006 AS A TIME FOR NATIONAL PRAYER AND REMEMBRANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA.**

Expressing the sense of the Democratic Caucus of the United States House of Representatives that all Americans are encouraged to pause in prayer and remembrance for the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on Saturday, August 26 and Sunday, August 27, 2006, these dates being the weekend prior to Tuesday, August 29, 2006, the one year anniversary of Katrina hitting the American Gulf Coast.

Whereas the 2005 hurricane season produced powerful Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, devastating communities and towns in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas;

Whereas the levees and hurricane protection measures failed, inflicting immeasurable destruction in the City of New Orleans and throughout the Gulf Coast;

Whereas Hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused the evacuation and dislocation of millions, and the deaths of thousands, during and after the storms' onslaughts;

Whereas the economic, cultural, and social damage caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are incalculable;

Whereas Hurricanes Katrina and Rita left 5 million Americans without power and destroyed homes and businesses along the Gulf Coast, with damage estimates in the hundreds of billions of dollars;

Whereas August 29, 2006, will mark one year since Hurricane Katrina came ashore, yet hundreds of thousands of Gulf Coast residents continue to struggle for basic needs such as housing, health care, educational facilities, and jobs; and

Whereas the American people have an innate moral fiber anchored in faith, perseverance, and strong resolve and have joined their fellow citizens of the Gulf Coast in prayer, support, and giving without measure. Now therefore be it

Resolved by the Democratic Caucus of the United States House of Representatives that -

(1) Saturday, August 26 and Sunday, August 27, 2006, be recognized across the nation as a Time for National Prayer and Remembrance for the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and that all Americans are encouraged to join together in observances these days; and

(2) the full House of Representatives, United States Senate, and the President of the United States are urged to support this Time for National Prayer and Remembrance; and

(3) the Administration and the Congress must immediately attend to the continued pressing,

critical and unmet housing, health, employment, and educational needs of millions of our fellow citizens from the Gulf who continue to be dislocated and fail to receive the vital assistance they need from their government.

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